

Furthermore, this motion unjustly deters the Conferees efforts to resolve funding levels for conservation and research programs. This motion claims to increase conservation programs as if it is a new idea, when, in fact, the Conferees have already allotted an eighty-percent increase in funding.

I urge my colleagues to reject this unnecessary and disruptive motion and to stand aside and let the Conferees continue their hard work on the conference committee.

IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMISSION
OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL ON BEHALF OF DR.
DOROTHY I. HEIGHT

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, for two hundred and twenty-six years, the United States Congress has expressed its highest regard for exemplary and extraordinary accomplishments by awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to its most outstanding citizens. It is now time to include among these laureates Dr. Dorothy Height, lifelong social worker, internationally known and respected human rights activist, who celebrated her 90th birthday earlier this year.

Dorothy Height, whose public service career spans over 65 years, has created an enviable legacy of advocacy and leadership in the cause of social justice for the whole nation, and particularly in her advocacy for the needs and rights of women, children, and families. She has constantly inspired others, from the poor to world leaders, to achieve at the highest level. As an advisor to Presidents through their First Ladies, Dr. Height has effected significant change in the lives of not only African-American women, but all women and their loved ones. She counseled Eleanor Roosevelt and prodded President Eisenhower to desegregate the nation's schools. She pressed President Johnson to appoint black women to sub-cabinet posts. As one of the "Big Six" civil rights leaders, she was the only woman at the table when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others made plans for the civil rights movement.

Dr. Height's many achievements and her distinguished service to the Nation and world has earned her over 50 awards and honors from local and State governments as well as the Federal Government, including the following:

In 1965, she received the John F. Kennedy Memorial Award from the National Council of Jewish Women.

For her contributions in interfaith, interracial and ecumenical movements for over thirty years, she was awarded the Ministerial Interfaith Association Award in 1969.

In 1968, she received the Lovejoy Award, the highest recognition by the Grand Lodge. Elks of the World for outstanding contribution to human relations.

In 1974, Ladies Home Journal named her "Woman of the Year" in recognition of her work for human rights;

The Congressional Black Caucus presented her with the William L. Dawson Award for decades of public service to people of color and particularly women.

For her tireless efforts on behalf of the less fortunate, President Ronald Reagan presented Dr. Height the Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service in 1989, the year she also received the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom Medal from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award.

Other awards include:

1993 Springarn Medal from the NAACP;

1993 Induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame;

1990 Oleander Foundation's Generous Heart Award;

1990 Camille Cosby World of Children Award;

1987 Essence Award;

1990 Steller Award.

Dorothy Height has sought no reward, because her monumental achievements were comfort and compensation enough. But this Congress and the nation owe her a debt of gratitude and should commission a Gold Medal for all her contributions. In her own words, 'I want to be remembered as someone who used herself and anything she could touch to work for justice and freedom. I want to be remembered as one who tried.'

It is with knowledge of your enthusiastic support of these noble causes that we respectfully request your endorsement of this measure. Please contact Alice Holmes at 202-225-7086.

HONORING THE STATE OF ISRAEL
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 54TH
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the State of Israel and join in sending our good wishes to the people of Israel, on occasion of Israel's 54th year of independence. Regrettably, commemoration of this important milestone comes at one of the darkest and most isolated points in Israel's 54-year history. All over Israel, the traditional celebratory activities have been canceled due to increased security risks due to an unprecedented wave of suicide bombings that has struck almost every corner of the country since the intifada commenced.

Mr. Speaker, every year Israelis stand and memorialize the soldiers who have given their lives so that Israelis can continue to live free in their land, and the next day Israelis celebrate their independence. It is no coincidence that Israel's Memorial Day and Independence Day are observed side-by-side. For far too many years in Israel's history, death and independence have been inexorably linked. Only on Independence Day during the nearly disastrous Yom Kippur War of 1973 do Israelis recall being so threatened, and even then the fighting was among soldiers at the front who could be reasonably certain their wives and children were not in imminent danger.

Mr. Speaker, in a recently-published poll conducted by Israel's largest daily newspaper, Yediot Aharonot, 53% Israelis said they would be afraid to celebrate Independence Day in an

open public place and definitely would not do so. Living with the threat of terror is a new reality for America after September 11th. Israelis have had to live with the threat of violence almost every day, which has intensified since January 2002.

Mr. Speaker, the breakdown of the peace process in the Middle East and the recent escalation of violence should be a matter of great concern to the United States. The United States' close friendship with Israel dates back to May 14, 1948, when President Harry S. Truman announced our recognition of this new nation, within moments of its declaring independence. Since that time, the United States has, time-and-again, offered its support to Israel in its struggle to survive and has played in advancing the peace process. As history has shown, strong U.S. leadership, particularly from the President, is necessary if there is to be any progress toward Mideast peace. That is why Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and now Bush, have all involved themselves in the quest for an end to the conflict. Today, the challenge is to help guide Israel and its Palestinian neighbors back on the path for peace.

Mr. Speaker, on this important day, I think it is instructive to look back at what the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said, when he received his Nobel Peace Prize in 1994, to understand Israel's struggle for peace. "We will pursue the course of peace with determination and fortitude. We will not let up. We will not give in. Peace will triumph over all its enemies, because the alternative is grimmer for us all. And we will prevail."

Mr. Speaker, my greatest hope for Israel on its 54th Day of Independence is the realization of its greatest hope—to live in peace with its neighbors with security for its people.

NEW THOUGHTS TO MEET THE
CHALLENGES ON TERRORISM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, thousands of American citizens will gather in Washington, DC to challenge the open-ended war the United States is now waging. They are right to do so, and the broader American public would do well to listen.

Congress authorized a police action to apprehend the conspirators behind the September 11 attack. Congress did not declare war because the President did not ask Congress to declare war. Yet, the Administration is conducting itself as if it were engaged in a declared war, sending military special operations forces to many new countries and ramping up defense spending. The Administration's budget contains real, inflation-adjusted spending increases only for military spending. Non-military spending is projected to remain flat, and funding for many important programs is decreased, in spite of growing unmet needs. The list of national priorities from which the Administration has taken away federal funds includes education, housing for the elderly, health care, and transportation.

This war footing will ultimately make the world a more dangerous place. Already, the Administration has derailed efforts to negotiate

the termination of North Korea's missile program and undermined efforts by President Khatami and other pro-reform Iranians to moderate the policies of Islamic fundamentalists in Iran. The Administration's unilateral intention to withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, its abandonment of efforts to pass a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and its refusal to negotiate enforcement mechanisms for the Biological Weapons Convention will only compound this instability.

The protestors are also concerned about having civil liberties and basic rights undermined at home. The USA PATRIOT Act, which 65 of my colleagues and I opposed, allows widespread wiretapping and internet surveillance without judicial supervision. It also allows secret searches without a warrant and gives the Attorney General the power to determine what is and isn't a domestic terrorist group. The law allows the U.S. government to imprison suspected terrorists for an indefinite period of time without due process or access to family members or lawyers. Last November, the President announced his intention to establish military tribunals as well. The Administration remains confused about extending internationally recognized treatment under the Geneva Convention.

The protestors' central observation is that these actions will likely have the opposite effect of what is intended—U.S. efforts intended to quell international terrorism will provoke more of it. History is replete with the unintended and counterproductive consequences of U.S. action: the U.S.-led embargo of Iraq, which has led to the deaths of thousands of Iraqi civilians, has solidified Saddam Hussein's hold on power. Our government secretly sponsored anti-Soviet fundamentalists in Afghanistan and this led to the rise of the Taliban and their harboring of Osama bin Laden.

The path to ending terrorism, whether by individuals, organizations or nation states, is a foreign or domestic policy based on social and economic justice—not corporate concerns. This is the hopeful premise of H.R. 2459, a bill to create a Department of Peace. This Cabinet-level Department would serve to promote nonviolence as an organizing principle in our society. We should treat others as we would want them to treat us. We should follow international law, if we want others to do so. We should practice non-violence and encourage non-violent conflict resolution whenever possible. We should stop supporting repressive regimes, if we want democracy to flourish.

But that is not the path the Administration has chosen. Those gathering in Washington, DC believe we cannot stop terrorism with an open-ended, permanent war. They believe the time has come for new thinking in meeting the challenges of terrorism. I believe they are right.

INTRODUCTION OF TWO DUTY SUSPENSION BILLS

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two pieces of legislation that will suspend the duties on two specific products imported into the United States. Both are

chemicals used in the production of agricultural herbicides.

Among the first herbicides to be registered in the United States, 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, otherwise referred to as 2,4-D, is used principally by farmers to help protect crops from damage caused by weeds. In addition to agricultural applications, 2,4-D has been widely used to control broadleaf and woody plants on rangelands, lawns, golf courses, forests, roadways, and parks.

The other chemical, 2-Methyl-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid, otherwise referred to as MCPA, is also an agricultural herbicide, but controls a slightly different spectrum of weeds. It was developed in the 1940's, and has been used since then to effectively control a wide variety of broadleaf weeds in cereals, grasses, flax, and non-crop areas.

Both chemicals are advantageous because they offer: broad spectrum weed control; low toxicity; low environmental persistence; little evidence of weed resistance following decades of use; and relative cost advantages over other chemical and non-chemical methods of weed control. In their long history, these chemicals have been tested according to modern standards and continue to meet regulatory acceptability.

So why is it appropriate to suspend the duties on these two chemicals?

First and foremost, MCPA is not produced in the United States, so a duty on foreign imports of this product only burdens American businesses. As for 2,4-D, only our trading partners with Normal Trade Relations currently pay the duty on this product; the majority of imports enter the United States duty-free under the Generalized System of Preferences. In this way, the duty undesirably discriminates against our good trading partners, and therefore should be suspended.

Cost is another reason to suspend the duty on these chemicals. Reducing costs is paramount in today's depressed agricultural sector. This bill helps agriculture producers and consumers in this effort by suspending the duty on critical herbicide inputs. In addition to helping farmers reduce their costs, this legislation would benefit the financially pressed federal, state, county and municipal government agencies that use these chemicals to maintain our roads, forests, rangelands, and parks.

The cost of inputs is such an important factor affecting the global agricultural economy that a proposal will be considered during the next WTO multilateral round of international trade negotiations to make all major agricultural inputs duty free. This "Zero for Zero" initiative will relieve agricultural producers and consumers from the unnecessary and burdensome costs of numerous duties. In light of this development, the legislation I introduce today is timely.

By suspending the duty on two chemicals, these bills lift a costly burden from American businesses, stop the discrimination against our close trading partners, and reduce input costs for agriculture consumers and producers. I urge my colleagues to support both bills, and I look forward to working with the Ways and Means Committee to include these bills in comprehensive duty suspension legislation that the Trade Subcommittee will consider in the near future.

HONORING ARTHUR AND CLARICE
WORTZEL ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, when Arthur and Clarice Wortzel are honored this Sunday on Martha's Vineyard, it will be with mixed feelings. We will wish the Wortzels well as they embark on their new life in Wisconsin; but we will miss the boundless community spirit which has characterized their years on the Island.

The Wortzels made Martha's Vineyard their home after many decades in the Foreign Service of the United States. Over the course of his distinguished career, Arthur Wortzel took on a variety of sensitive assignments. Mr. Wortzel and his wife, Clarice, became engaging ambassadors of American interests and values.

After retirement, the Wortzels put their skill and resolve to work for the benefit of the year-round community on Martha's Vineyard—from Community Services to the Foundation for Island Health, from the Dukes County Health Advisory Council to the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center. No task was too small for their kindness; no task was too large for their talent.

We're delighted the Wortzels can join their three children and their families in Wisconsin. We wish the Wortzels well and look forward to staying in close touch. Our community is better for their commitment, and we'll miss their wit, warmth and wisdom until their first visit back to the Island.

RECOGNIZING A CENTURY OF
SERVICE BY THE EL MONTE
WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the El Monte Women's Club as they celebrate their Centennial Anniversary of service to the community.

On April 18, 1902, 34 women converted a three-year old Shakespearean Club into the El Monte Women's Club. A year later, the El Monte Women's Club became chartered as a San Gabriel Valley District, California Federation of Women's Clubs. The guiding principle of the Club is to unite women's clubs and like organizations throughout the world to benefit and promote their common interests in education, public welfare, moral values, civic, and fine arts.

Throughout its 100 years, the El Monte Women's Club has instituted a tradition of community service benefiting the residents of El Monte. Today, the club is the largest non-denominational women's volunteer service organization in the city. Members of the club are largely women that take great pride in their commitment to provide scholarships for youth in the community.

Among the many programs sponsored by the club, the El Monte Women's Club actively